

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 427

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the life and memory of Professor  
Jonathan I. Charney of Nashville.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts distinguished themselves as academic and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan I. Charney was one such estimable individual whose passing greatly saddened the members of this legislative body; and

WHEREAS, Professor Charney was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Charney served with acumen and alacrity as the Lee S. and Charles A. Speir Chair in Law at Vanderbilt University Law School, in which position he earned the respect of his students and colleagues alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of New York University and the University of Wisconsin Law School, Professor Charney established himself as an expert in the field of international law; his counsel and erudition were frequently sought by leaders across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Charney initiated his law career in 1968 as an Attorney in the Appellate Section of the United State Department of Justice, Land and Natural Resources Division; in 1969, he transferred to the Marine Resources Section, soon becoming Chief of the section; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Professor Charney commenced his 30-year tenure at the Vanderbilt University Law School, attaining the rank of full Professor in 1978 and being named the Alexander Heard Distinguished Service Professor for the 1999-2000 academic year; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Charney also served as a Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Professor Jonathan Charney wrote extensively and taught courses on a wide range of topics in international law, including public international law, international environmental law, international human rights law, international criminal law and international courts and admiralty; and

WHEREAS, Professor Charney was a frequent consultant to many national governments, including that of the United States, in particular regard to international boundary disputes; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Charney helped develop President Nixon's negotiating position for the law of the sea conference that guided United States policy throughout succeeding administrations; he also served as a member of the U.S. delegation that negotiated the 1982 United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea and as a delegate to the Third United Nations Conference of the Law of the Sea; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Professor Charney was invited to deliver the prestigious Hague Lectures at the Academy of International Law in the Netherlands, an honor extended only to leading scholars in the field. His lectures on "The Multiplicity of International Tribunals and the Universality of International Law" were the culmination of three years of international law research; and

WHEREAS, most recently, Jonathan Charney's scholarship and work in private and public conferences were focused on finding a resolution to the conflict between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China; and

WHEREAS, a vastly prolific writer, Professor Charney's publications, including books, chapters in books, articles, essays and reviews, are far too numerous to list; perhaps most important, though, is his work as Co-Editor in Chief of *The American Journal of International Law*, the production of which he oversaw in coordination with Yale University's Professor Michael Reisman, and as Co-Editor of several volumes of *International Maritime Boundaries*, for which publications he and Co-Editor Lewis M. Alexander were honored with the American Society of International Law's Certificate of Merit; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work as a professor, writer and international consultant, Jonathan I. Charney still found time to lend his remarkable talents to notable organizations also too numerous to list but including service as a member of the Board of Editors of *The American Journal of International Law*, the Board of Editors of *Ocean Development and International Law*, the Council of Foreign Relations, the American Law Institute and the Board of Advisors of the International Boundary Research Unit of the University of Durham in the United Kingdom. He also served as the Director of the American Society of International Law Maritime Boundary Project, as the Chair of the American Society of International Law Nominating Committee and as the Vice-President of the American Society of International Law; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Charney was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Professor Charney enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of 36 years, Sharon Charney, and was the proud father of three children; these fine individuals, along with his loving mother and three brothers, mourn the loss of a kind husband, gentle father, devoted son and caring brother; and

WHEREAS, described by friends and family as "a man driven by a belief that through diplomacy and proper adherence to international law, nations could better foster peace and

better manage the world's natural resources," Professor Charney leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Professor Jonathan I. Charney, reflecting fondly upon his manifold professional achievements, his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Professor Charney.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.